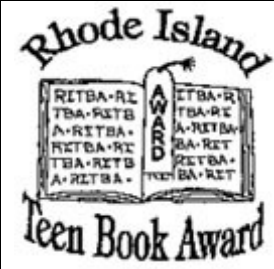


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Young adults from across Rhode Island chose Kristin Cashore's *Graceling* as their favorite book for the past year in a statewide election. As a result, Cashore's book was awarded the 2011 Rhode Island Teen Book Award. The award is sponsored by the Rhode Island Educational Media Association and the Rhode Island Library Association. Runners up for the award include *The Chosen One* by Carol Lynch Williams and *Leviathan* by Scott Westerfeld. Middle school and high school students from all over Rhode Island voted at their school or local public library.

The novel was one of 20 young adult books nominated by school library media specialists, teachers, and public librarians from Rhode Island. The books were selected on the basis of literary quality and their appeal to young adult readers. Throughout the past year, young adults could find copies of the books available to read at their local school and public libraries and area stores. Young adult readers were eligible to vote once they had read three of the titles.

In this debut novel, Cashore introduces readers to a world where the Graced, those gifted in a particular way, are marked by eyes that are different colors. Katsa's Grace is that she is a gifted fighter, and, as such, she is virtually invincible. She is in the service of her tyrannical uncle, king of one of the seven kingdoms, and she is forced to torture people for infractions against him. She has secretly formed the Council, which acts in the service of justice and fairness for those who have been accused and abused. Readers meet her as she is rescuing the father of the Lienid king, who has been abducted. The reasons for his capture are part of a tightening plot that Katsa unravels and resolves, with the help of Prince Po, the captive's grandson. He has his own particular Grace, and he becomes Katsa's lover and partner in what becomes a mortally dangerous mission.

The Rhode Island Teen Book Award Committee would like to commend Greenville Public Library in Smithfield for successfully promoting the election for the book award. Patrons of the library made up more than 26 percent of all those who voted. Young adult participants from Burrillville Middle School and Westerly High School were also well represented in the final tally with more than 10 percent of the vote.

The committee is proud to announce the list of 20 nominees for the 2012 award election. (please see attached)

For further information, feel free to contact Aaron Coutu. More information can also be found at the award's website at <http://tinyurl.com/riteenbookaward/>.